

Remarks

I. Status of the Claims

In the Office Action dated June 1, 2006 (hereinafter “the Office Action”), claims 220-262, 265-272, 275-280, 283-285, 292-297, 300-306, 309-316, 319, 320, 329-332, and 335-465 are pending.

Claims 220-262, 265-267, 311-316, 319, 320, 359-411, 436-443 and 459-465 have been rejected. Claims 268-272, 275-280, 283-285, 292-297, 300-306, 309, 310, 329-332, 335-358, 412-435, 443-458 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form, or if the rejections of the base claims are overcome.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims are now allowable.

II. Acceptance of the Terminal Disclaimer over Application No. 10/289,454

At page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has indicated the acceptance and recordation of the Terminal Disclaimer of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the patent issuing from Application No. 10/289,454.

III. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

At page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 220-258, 311-316, 319, 320, 359-404, 436-443 and 459-465 as being allegedly unpatentable under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting

over claims 25, 27, 29-33, 45, 66 and 79-83 of allowed copending Application No. 10/289,456.

At page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has also provisionally rejected claims 220-262, 265-267, 359-411 and 459-465 as being allegedly unpatentable under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 22-24, 51-54 and 56 of allowed copending Application No. 10/264,267.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's provisional rejections. However, solely to advance prosecution, and not in acquiescence to the rejections, Applicants provide herewith Terminal Disclaimers under 37 C.F.R. § 1.32(c) of the term of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of patents issuing from Application Nos. 10/289,456 or 10/264,267. Applicants respectfully request the consideration and entry of these Terminal Disclaimers, and the reconsideration and withdrawal of the present obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

III. Objections to the Claims and Allowable Subject Matter

At page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to claims 268-272, 275-280, 283-285, 292-297, 300-306, 309, 310, 329-332, 335-358, 412-435 and 443-458 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form, or if the rejections of the base claims are overcome. Applicants respectfully believe that the present filing of Terminal Disclaimers overcomes the rejection of the base claims, and hence the objected-to claims are now allowable. Notification of same in the next communication from the Examiner is requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding objections and rejections. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Simon J. Elliott, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 54,083

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600